

What are native plants?

- Plants that grew naturally in the pre-settlement tallgrass prairies of Iowa
- Tallgrass Prairie developed in Iowa about 10,000 years ago as the glaciers retreated
- Included grasses, flowering plants, insects and other animals adapted to survive in a wide range of conditions
- Nearly all of the tallgrass prairie in Iowa disappeared because of the growth of agricultural production in the late 1800's and early 1900's only .10% remains today

What is native/natural landscaping?

- Simply a way to reincorporate native grasses, flowers, shrubs and trees into the landscape.



Natural landscaping in West Des Moines

Natural landscaping is the design, installation, and maintenance of landscapes which provide the beneficial natural functions that are lost through cultivation of conventional lawns.

Natural landscaping stresses the preservation and reintroduction of plants native to our area.

Conventional Turf

Conventional turf, composed of cool season grasses (i.e. Ky. Bluegrass) is costly to maintain; dependent upon chemicals and fertilizer and non-supportive of the diversity of organisms that are characteristic of a healthy environment

Still has it's place!!!

Benefits of natural landscaping



Reduced costs = long term savings

Natural landscapes need no or infrequent mowing, no fertilizer, and only sometimes minimal herbicides for weed control

Conventional Turf vs. Natural Landscape

10 year savings in mowing alone

*\$8300 per acre

compared to natural landscape establishment costs

* estimates based on past projects and \$50/ac mowing cost

Creation of Distinctive & Attractive Parks

The visual interest and diversity of natural landscapes are assets to the community. They are part of high quality design and environmental stewardship.



Improved Water Quality

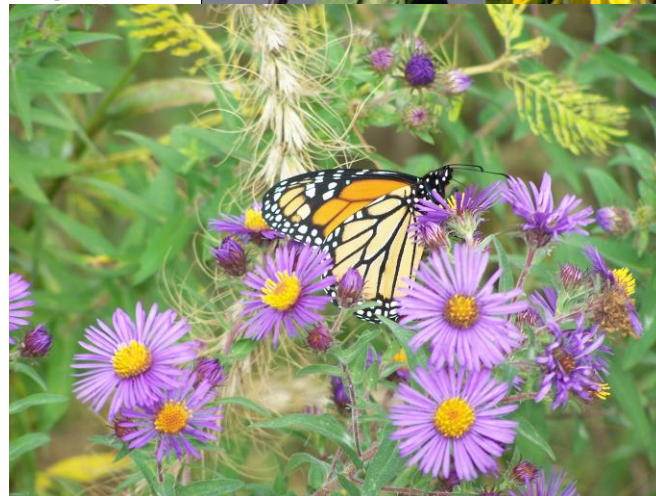
Native vegetation in drainage ways enhances the infiltration of contaminated storm water. The root systems improve soil permeability and helps the uptake of pollutants. Vegetated buffers along streams and drainage ways intercept surface runoff and subsurface pollutants. The avoidance of fertilizers and other chemicals is also a big factor in protecting water quality.

Wild Rose Park Drainage



Habitat Restoration & Protection

Natural landscaping restores habitats for wildlife. The introduction of native plants can enhance the populations of birds, insects, and animals which are part of healthy ecosystems.









Conservation Education

Natural landscaping puts people in touch with nature. These areas are used by both the Parks and Recreation Department and Schools.



Recreation

Natural landscapes are ideal locations for bird watching, photography, walking and hiking, and simply enjoying the quiet and beauty of nature.



Where in West Des Moines?

Parks

Trail System

City Buildings



Ashawa Park



Beh Glen Park at seeding time



City Hall



Crossroads Park



Jordan Creek Trail



Jordan Creek Trail before



Knolls Park



Quail Cove Park



Raccoon River Park



Southwoods Park



Southwoods Savannah Restoration



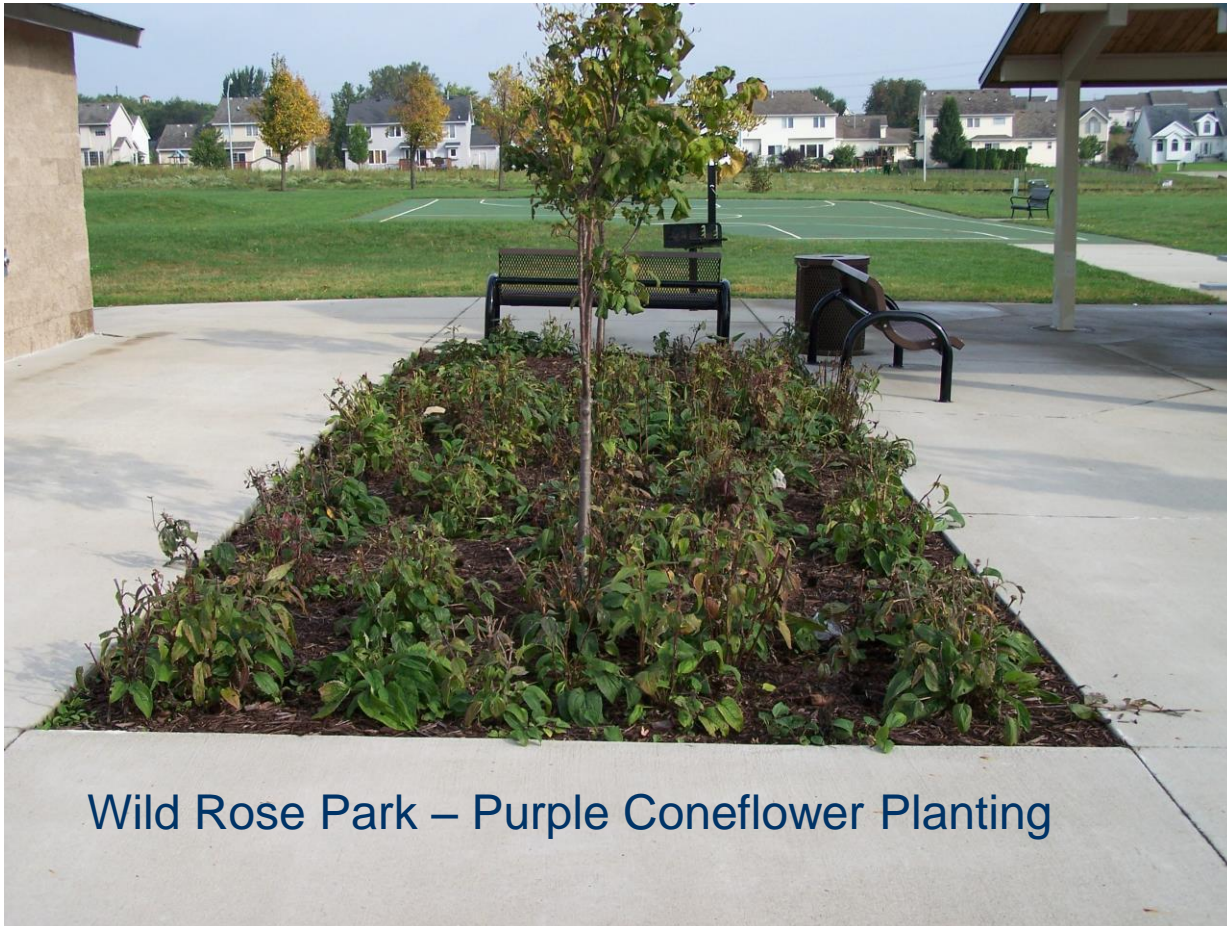
Southwoods Savannah not restored



Southwoods Prairie Renovation



Landscape Beds



Wild Rose Park – Purple Coneflower Planting

Landscape Beds



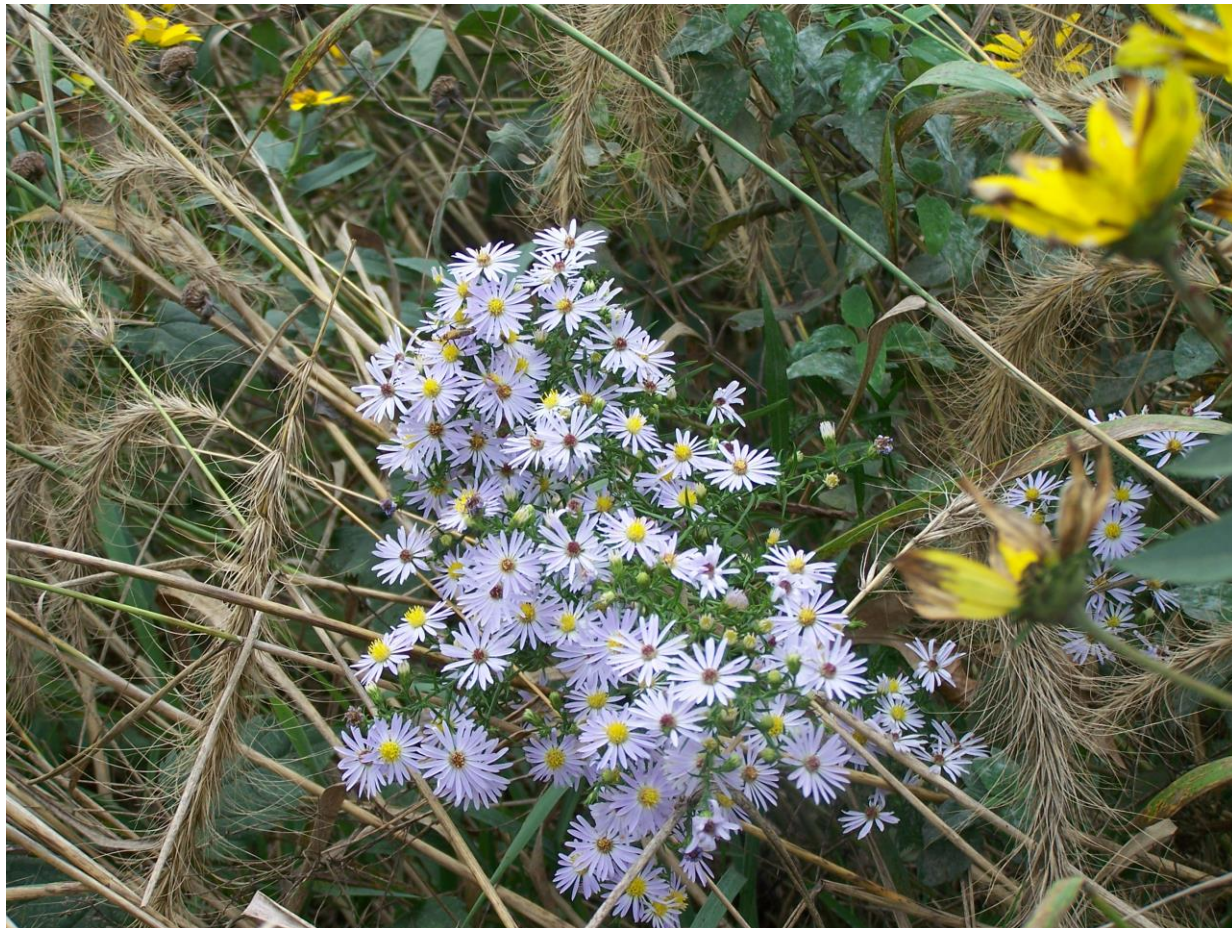
Westridge Outdoor Classroom



Fire Station #18 Grand Avenue



More up Close















Thanks for listening!!!!

